Digital learning and ICT in education

The European Commission is aiming to modernise education and training by funding research and innovation and promoting digital technologies used for learning.

The action plan on digital learning


To achieve its objectives, the Action Plan sets out 13 actions in 2 priority areas:

1. Fostering the development of a high-performing digital education ecosystem;
2. Enhancing digital skills and competences for the digital transformation.

Under priority 2, action 7, an expert group has been tasked with developing common guidelines for teachers and educators to foster digital literacy and tackle disinformation through education and training (https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?lang=en&groupId=3781).

The guidelines are expected to be ready in September 2022.

The European Commission has also adopted in 2017 a Communication on strengthening European identity through education and culture (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2017%3A673%3AFIN). This Communication was the Commission's contribution to the leaders' meeting on education and culture at the Gothenburg summit. Some actions have to be adopted by 2025.

**Funding Research and Innovation for Digital Learning**

The European Commission funds many activities on research and innovation for digital learning under several programmes, including Horizon Europe and Digital Europe Programme, as also the precedent programmes Horizon 2020, the seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP).

Under the Horizon Europe and Digital Europe Programmes, the following calls are planned:

- **eXtended Reality Learning — Engage and Interact** (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl4-2022-human-01-19;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=extended%20reality;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=0,1,2;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=null;programCcm2Id=null;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destination=null;mission=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;startDateTime=null;startDateTimeGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState) (TOPIC ID: HORIZON-CL4-2022-HUMAN-01-19), opening date: 21 December 2021;

- **Calls under the Digital Europe Programme** (https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/get-funding-digital) work programme for 2021-22 includes preparatory actions for the data space for skills (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/digital-2021-prepacts-ds-01-skills;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=data%20space;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=1,0;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=null;programCcm2Id=null;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destination=null;mission=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;startDateTime=null;startDateTimeGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState) open between 17/11/2021-22/02/2022.

**The following areas were covered under Horizon 2020:**

- **Mentoring** (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/dt-transformations-21-2020)scheme for schools: mainstreaming innovation by spreading the
advanced ICT-based teaching practices to a wide circle of schools (DT-TRANSFORMATIONS-21-2020); an empowering, inclusive next generation Internet (ICT-2019-30);

- technologies for learning and skills (ICT-22-2016) (ICT-22-2016);
- technologies for better human learning and teaching (ICT 20 – 2015) (ICT-20-2015);

Following the initiative of the European Parliament, the Commission co-finances pilot project and preparatory actions, the ongoing action are:

- preparatory action — Increasing access to educational tools in areas and communities with low connectivity or access to technologies (PPPA-2021-RemoteDigEdu);

**Digitisation of schools**

The Commission carried out a second survey of schools: ICT in education in 2019. The survey had 2 objectives:
1. benchmark progress in ICT in schools;
2. define a model for a highly equipped and connected classroom.

The survey was carried out in 31 countries (EU27 + UK, Norway, Iceland and Türkiye). It provides detailed and reliable benchmarking on the use of ICT in school education across Europe, and infrastructure provision, use, confidence and attitudes.

The European Commission also published a study on satellite-based broadband services in schools ([https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/results-satellite-broadband-schools-study](https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/results-satellite-broadband-schools-study)). The study showed that in 2015, an estimated 18% of EU primary and secondary schools were not connected to broadband. The study concluded that the satellite broadband could be an efficient option for poorly connected schools. It also suggested that a voucher scheme could be used as a tool to close the broadband gap for schools.

Communication "Resetting education and training for the digital age"

(https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX%3A52018DC0022&from=EN)

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Latest News

PRESS RELEASE | 27 September 2023

The first report on the State of the Digital Decade, published earlier this week, provides a comprehensive look at progress towards achieving the digital transformation to empower a more digitally sovereign, resilient, and competitive EU.

PRESS RELEASE | 30 June 2023
Today, the Commission adopted the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to allow for measuring progress made in achieving the 2030 Digital Decade targets, and issued guidance on how Member States should structure their national roadmaps, to reach the digital targets.

PRESS RELEASE | 11 October 2022
Commission steps up action to tackle disinformation and promote digital literacy among young people

The Commission has published Guidelines for teachers and educators in primary and secondary schools, on how to address disinformation and promote digital literacy in their classrooms.

PRESS RELEASE | 06 October 2022
10th anniversary of EU Code Week: bringing coding to schools and beyond

This year, EU Code Week is celebrating its ten-year anniversary and will take place from 8 to 23 October 2022

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The European Commission is determined to tackle the digital skills gap and promote projects and strategies to improve the level of digital skills in Europe.

See Also

The European Commission supports a number of initiatives to promote excellence in digital skills across different organisations, sectors and countries.

Source URL: https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/digital-learning